

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 12765 01 OF 02 121640Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 STR-07 TRSE-00
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 /103 W

-----109232 121653Z /44

O R 121622Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0145
INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
EC COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL BREMEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 12765

GENEVA FOR S/S

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, EEC, ECON, GW
SUBJECT: POLITICAL IMPRESSIONS OF THE BREMEN EC SUMMIT

REFS: A) BREMEN 412; B) BREMEN 413; C) BONN 12690

1. FOLLOWING IS A COLLECTION OF THE EMBASSY'S
IMPRESSIONS ON POLITICAL ASPECTS OF AND GERMAN ATTITUDES
TOWARD THE BREMEN EC SUMMIT WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN INCLUDED
IN PREVIOUS REPORTING. THEY COME PRIMARILY FROM OUR
CONVERSATIONS ON THE PERIPHERY OF THE SUMMIT AS WELL AS
FROM OTHER CONTACTS IN BONN BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER THE
MEETING.

2. THE BREMEN SESSION WAS THE FIRST EC SUMMIT TO TAKE
PLACE IN A CITY OTHER THAN A NATIONAL CAPITAL. INFORMED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 12765 01 OF 02 121640Z

GERMAN CONTACTS TELL US CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT PERSONALLY
CHOSE BREMEN AS THE SITE. THE SAME SOURCES CLAIM HE HAD
TWO PRIMARY REASONS FOR DOING SO: 1) TO AVOID OVER-
WHELMING BONN IN THE DAYS JUST PROCEEDING THE CARTER
VISIT AND THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT AND 2) TO RAISE THE PROFILE
OF NORTHERN GERMANY ON THE NATIONAL GERMAN SCENE.
SCHMIDT, WHO COMES FROM HAMBURG, IS KNOWN TO FEEL THAT

NORTHERN GERMANY OFTEN IS NOT GIVEN ITS POLITICAL DUE.

3. IN THE EYES OF EXPERT SUMMIT WATCHERS, CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT PERFORMED WELL AS PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL. HE SEEMED RELAXED AND MOST COURTEOUS THROUGHOUT THE SESSION. WE ARE TOLD HE TOOK FAIR BUT FIRM CONTROL IN COUNCIL MEETINGS AND HIS PUBLIC APPEARANCES WERE, AS USUAL, IMPRESSIVE. HOWEVER, THE CHANCELLOR HAS OBVIOUSLY DECIDED TO GIVE THE PRESIDENCY OF THE EC A DEFINITE GERMAN FLAVOR. FOR EXAMPLE, HE INSISTED IN REPLYING TO ALL QUESTIONS GIVEN AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE IN HIS NATIVE GERMAN, EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE POSED IN ENGLISH AND HIS ENGLISH IS FLUENT. SIMILIARLY, HE CHOSE TO CITE SPECIFIC GERMAN EXAMPLES TO ILLUSTRATE POINTS HE WAS TRYING TO MAKE BOTH IN PUBLIC AND IN PRIVATE.

4. ALTHOUGH THE CHANCELLOR HIMSELF REMAINED ABOVE THE FRAY, THE SHEEN OF UNANIMITY AMONG THE NINE IN BREMEN WAS MARRED BY ACCUSATIONS BY THE SMALLER MEMBERS (PARTICULARLY THE DUTCH BUT SUPPORTED BY THE DANES AND THE IRISH) THAT THE LARGER COUNTRIES WERE ABANDONING THEIR COMMITMENT TO FULL CONSULTATION AND, INSTEAD, MERELY INFORMING THEIR COLLEAGUES. THIS CHARGE WAS LEVIED PARTICULARLY AGAINST THE FRENCH AND GERMANS FOR WHAT WAS SEEN BY THE DUTCH AND OTHERS AS A HIGH-HANDED EFFORT TO FORCE THEIR JOINTLY-CONCOCTED PLAN FOR CLOSER MONETARY COOPERATION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BONN 12765 01 OF 02 121640Z

ON THE OTHER SEVEN. ALTHOUGH THE EMOTIONS FADED MARKEDLY AS THE SESSION PROCEEDED, THE DUTCH WERE PARTICULARLY ACTIVE IN BRIEFING THE PRESS AND GIVING OTHER INTERVIEWS IN WHICH THEY RELATED, SOMETIMES QUITE BITTERLY, THE PREDILECTION OF THE LARGER MEMBERS TO IGNORE THEIR WISE COUNSEL. WE UNDERSTAND THAT VAN AGT GAVE SEVERAL INTERVIEWS TO LOCAL DUTCH NEWSPAPERS IN WHICH HE MADE THIS POINT. THERE WERE ALSO INDICATIONS THAT HE HAD SEVERAL PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH OTHER HEADS OF STATE INCLUDING DENMARK'S JORGENSEN. JORGENSEN REPORTEDLY WAS INCLINED TO PLAY DOWN THE ISSUE TO AVOID THE APPEARANCE OF "BLOCS" WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

5. WELL BEFORE THE SUMMIT CONVENED IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE FOCAL POINT OF THE SESSION WOULD BE THE FRANCO/GERMAN PROPOSAL FOR CLOSER MONETARY COOPERATION. FRENCH AND GERMAN OFFICIALS (CIAPPIER AND SCHULMANN) HAD TOURED MOST EUROPEAN CAPITALS EXPLAINING THE PROPOSAL AND CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAD SENT PRIVATE LETTERS TO OTHER HEADS OF STATE. (IRELAND RECEIVED NEITHER A VISIT NOR A LETTER, MUCH TO ITS DISMAY.) HOWEVER, BASED ON COMMENTS MADE BY FRG OFFICIALS BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER

THE MEETING, IT APPEARS THAT THE FRG CAME AWAY FROM
BREMEN WITH LESS THAN IT HAD HOPED ON THE EUROPEAN
MONETARY SYSTEM. FRG PRESS SPOKESMAN GRUNWALD MADE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 12765 02 OF 02 121640Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 STR-07 TRSE-00
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 /103 W

-----109231 121654Z /44

O R 121622Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0146
INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
EC COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL BREMEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 12765

CLEAR IN HIS OPENING STATEMENT ON JULY 6, THAT THE
PRESIDENCY ENVISAGED A TWO-STEP PROCEDURE IN WORKING
TOWARD THE FRANCO-GERMAN PLAN. FIRST, WOULD BE AN
AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE BY THE NINE TO THE BASIC OUTLINES
OF THE PLAN, THE DETAILS OF WHICH WOULD BE WORKED OUT
LATER BY EXPERTS. SECOND, INDIVIDUAL STATES WOULD
DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO ASSOCIATE WITH THE PLAN. PRIOR
TO THE MEETING, GRUNWALD AND OTHERS HAD EXPECTED THAT
AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE COULD BE REACHED IN BREMEN.
WHAT ACTUALLY RESULTED FROM THE MEETING WAS SOMEWHAT
LESS. THE NINE DID AGREE ON THE NEED FOR A "DURABLE
AND EFFECTIVE SCHEME" FOR CLOSER MONETARY COOPERATION,
BUT, AS REPORTED REFTEL A, THE DECISION WAS DEFERRED TO
THE DECEMBER 4-5 MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL.
ALTHOUGH THEY SAY BONN HAD HOPED FOR MORE, OUR CONTACTS
WERE NOT COMPLETELY DISAPPOINTED WITH THE RESULT. WE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 12765 02 OF 02 121640Z

UNDERSTAND THE CHANCELLOR IS SATISFIED THAT AT LEAST SOME PROGRESS IS BEING MADE.

6. DURING HIS CONCLUDING PRESS CONFERENCE CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT INDICATED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD BEEN INFORMED ON THE OUTLINES OF THE FRANCO-GERMAN PLAN AND THAT HE HAD GIVEN HIS APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE. THIS CAME ABOUT LARGELY AT THE INSISTENCE OF UK PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN, WHO FEARED THAT THE FRANCO-GERMAN PROPOSALS SMACKED OF ANTI-AMERICANISM. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT TELEPHONED PRESIDENT CARTER JUST PRIOR TO HIS PUBLIC PRESS CONFERENCE ON JULY 7 TO CONVEY THE BASICS OF WHAT HE WOULD ANNOUNCE.

7. WHILE ALL WENT RATHER SMOOTHLY, GERMAN OFFICIALS WHO WERE CONCERNED WITH POLITICAL COOPERATION AND SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND FOREIGN MINISTERS SEEMED TO BE TAKEN ABACK BY THE EXTENSIVE DEMANDS OF PERFORMING THE NECESSARY LOGISTICAL TASKS, E.G. OF TRANSLATING AND DISTRIBUTING DOCUMENTS, ETC. THIS BECAME EMBARRASSINGLY EVIDENT WHEN, IN HIS CONCLUDING PRESS COMMENTS, THE CHANCELLOR CALLED FOR A GERMAN VERSION OF A DOCUMENT AND IT COULD NOT BE PRODUCED FOR NEARLY 15 MINUTES. THE CHANCELLOR WAS VISIBLY ANNOYED.

8. SINCE BREMEN WAS CLEARLY A TRIAL RUN FOR THE BONN SUMMIT, GERMAN OFFICIALS ON THE SCENE WERE MOST ANXIOUS TO PLEASE. THE TELEX AND TELEPHONE SYSTEM THEY INSTALLED WORKED WELL AND THE SUMMIT MEETING, IN GENERAL, WAS WELL DONE.
STOESSEL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUMMIT MEETINGS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BONN12765
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780285-0983
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780771/aaaachra.tel
Line Count: 207
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a5744977-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BREMEN 412, 78 BREMEN 413, 78 BONN 12690
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2043469
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL IMPRESSIONS OF THE BREMEN EC SUMMIT
TAGS: PEPR, ECON, GE, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a5744977-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014